



STATE SENATOR
**JIM
MERRITT**

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A BALANCED BUDGET!

Thanks to a budget passed by the General Assembly and signed by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2005, **Indiana is in the black for the first time in more than a decade.**

Money-Saving Tips: Conserve Gasoline



Over the past several months, Hoosiers have seen gas prices rise substantially, putting a real strain on budgets.

I have compiled a list of gas saving tips that will help reduce the amount of gas you use.

If you need more information on other gasoline resources, visit the attorney general's website at www.indianaconsumer.com

Drive Sensibly: Speeding, rapid acceleration and braking can lower your gasoline mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.

Observe the Speed Limit: Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional 10 cents per gallon for gasoline.

Avoid Excessive Idling: Idling gets zero miles per gallon, and cars with larger engines generally waste more gas at idle.

Use Cruise Control: Cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and will save you gasoline.

Use Overdrive Gears: Using overdrive gearing slows your car's engine speeds, which saves gasoline and reduces engine wear.

Check & Replace Air Filters: Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.

Keep Tires Properly Inflated: Keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressures can improve your gas mileage by around 3 percent.

Use Recommended Grade of Motor Oil: Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil can improve your gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent.



INFO & NEWS *from the* Indiana Senate



STATE SENATOR
**JIM
MERRITT**

Serving District 31, which includes portions of Center, Warren & Lawrence Townships in Marion County



Sen. Merritt is pictured here at the Lawrence Safety Day.

How to contact
 Senator Jim Merritt

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CALL, TOLL-FREE:
 1-800-382-9467

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 WWW.IN.GOV/S31

Job Creation Efforts Successful

— More jobs for Hoosiers are on the way —

A priority in the Senate has always been job creation. Although government actions cannot create jobs overnight, Indiana is beginning to see results just one year after the major economic development laws of 2005 were implemented.

In 2005, the General Assembly sped up and streamlined the creation of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), created tax breaks for research and development, passed a shovel-ready site development plan and expanded existing tax credits. The result: 85,000 more Hoosiers are working than in January 2005 and unemployment is at a low 4.9 percent.

While more jobs are on the way, here are some recent job announcements:

- Honda announcing a \$550 million plant that will employ 2,000 people in Greensburg (the plant will have capacity for 4,000 employees)
- Federal Express announcing a \$200 million expansion creating 800 new jobs in Indianapolis
- Rolls Royce committing to bring 600 aerospace jobs to Indianapolis
- Pfizer deciding to create 450 jobs in Terre Haute
- Arbonne International opening a 400-employee distribution center in Greenwood.
- Nestle selecting Anderson for a 300-job facility
- Sallie Mae announcing 700 new jobs in Muncie
- Dot Foods announced 250 jobs in Cambridge City

Communities Uniting to Fight Crime

Sen. Merritt authored Senate Enrolled Act 338 in 2006 to help fight crime. In this photo, Merritt talks with Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi about this legislation, which gives prosecutors the tools they need to give tougher sentences to criminals whose crimes involved gang violence.



Sen. Merritt talks with citizens at the National Night Out meeting in the Kensington Farms neighborhood in Lawrence. This event included thousands of communities across the country and encourages citizens to work together to combat crime.

BACK TO SCHOOL

INDIANA IS ON THE WAY TO AN EDUCATION COMEBACK

We recently announced \$13 million in delayed payments to IPS, Warren Township and Lawrence Township Schools.

We changed regulations to allow school corporations to pool together to pay for administrative costs, such as insurance and buses.

We passed a bill to improve student nutrition by providing more healthy choices and require daily exercise.

We also changed rules to allow our most gifted students to move on to college sooner.

MAJOR MOVES MEANS MAJOR MONEY

Area will see over \$320 million in road improvements

On June 28, Indiana closed a lease with Statewide Mobility Partners, which will operate the Indiana Toll Road in exchange for \$3.8 billion. That money has been deposited and is currently earning interest at a rate of about \$500,000 every day. For an up-to-the-second look at how much interest has been accrued, visit www.in.gov/tos/MajorMoves.htm

All of this money will go toward improving infrastructure in the state of Indiana, and District 31 will see millions of dollars in road improvements in the coming years. These projects include improvements to the following:

- Pendleton Pike from I-465 to Post Road — \$16,415,735
- I-70 from 0.6 East of Post Road to 0.5 Miles East of Mt. Comfort Road — \$46,620,000
- I-465 from Allisonville Road to I-69/SR 37 — \$57,000,000
- Numerous additional projects along I-465 and I-69 on the Northeast side of Indianapolis exceed \$200,000,000
- Over \$11 million to Marion County and local governments within the county, including \$536,400

Did You Know...?

- ... that as of August 23, the money from Major Moves had generated over \$26 million in interest?
- ... that the Indiana Senate spent prudently this past year, resulting in a return of \$903,572.84 to the state's General Fund at the end of Fiscal Year 2006? This is more than four times the amount reverted in FY 2005.